GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:561
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2017
Children's ability to read Hindi
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

in Class V are not able to read Hindi books prescribed in Class II curriculum as per a survey conducted in rural schools by a voluntary organisation and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the situation; and
(b) whether the Government proposes to constitute any Inquiry Commission to prepare a report in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)
(a): Yes, Madam. PRATHAM, a non-governmental organization conducts annual achievement surveys released in the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER). It is a household survey limited to rural areas of the country. As per their report of 2016, 47.8% of children in grade V can read a grade II text. Further, the proportion of children in Std. V who could read Std. II level text improved by more than 5 percent from 2014 to 2016 in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tripura, Nagaland and Rajasthan. The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development was not associated with this ASER 2016 survey.
The Central Government through a centrally funded programme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), financially supports State and UT Governments to address gaps and challenges in ensuring quality education to children in elementary classes through recruitment of additional teachers to improve the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR), regular annual-in- service teacher training to all teachers to update their skills and knowledge, support for Computer Aided Learning at upper primary level and regular academic support through Block Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres. Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat, a sub-programme under SSA has been launched to enhance the quality of foundational learning in languages and early mathematics in classes I and II and a focused programme for Science and Maths at upper primary level under SSA is also being supported. In order to strengthen the quality of education, the learning outcomes for students at elementary level have been finalized and they will be included in the Central Rules of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.
For secondary education, the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shikhsa Abhiyan programme similarly provides for in-service teacher training, academic support to schools for improving performance including training for Principals.
(b): The Central Government has developed its own student assessment system called the National Achievement Survey (NAS), which are independently conducted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) across the country. Under NAS, periodic national surveys of learning achievement of children in grade III, V, VIII and X are conducted. Four rounds of NAS have been conducted so far for grade V and three rounds for grade III & VIII. These reveal improvement in learning achievement levels of pupils, in identified subjects from first round to fourth round. Since only first round of NAS has been conducted at grade X level, it is not possible to comment on the comparative learning achievement or decline of students of grade X. From current year onwards, Government has decided to conduct annual census based National Achievement Surveys covering all students from grade I-VIII in all government and government aided schools. The students learning assessment will be according to the Learning Outcomes developed by NCERT for all subjects covering all classes in the elementary cycle.